



NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 22, 2016

Man Who Claimed to be Swami Arraigned on Sexual Assault Charges

A 62-year-old man that claimed to be a Hindu monk and performed so-called healing rituals pleaded not guilty today after being ordered to stand trial on charges that he sexually assaulted three women, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Maren Dermody said Gokula Nanda (dob 5/17/53) of West Hills was ordered to stand trial on Dec. 4, 2015, for six counts of sexual battery by fraud, three counts of sexual penetration by foreign object and two counts of sexual battery.

Nanda is scheduled for a pretrial hearing on Feb. 29 in Department F of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

Nanda sexually abused the victims while claiming to be performing healing rituals at various locations, including his Eastern medicine store in Santa Clarita and a park in Torrance, between April 2011 and April 2015, according to testimony at the preliminary hearing.

The defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of 19 years in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the Torrance Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.